

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application. Reconsideration and reexamination of the claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being met by Kew et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,063,994) (hereinafter “Kew”). Claims 1-6 recite an electronic musical instrument having “a first connection interface for use as a MIDI interface.” Kew discloses utilizing a personal computer to implement a simulated guitar. As illustrated in Fig. 1A, the personal computer 10 has a monitor 12, speakers 14 and 16, a keyboard 18 and a mouse 20. There is no disclosure or even suggestion that this personal computer in Fig. 1A has a MIDI interface for MIDI signals. The only interfaces suggested by Kew have nothing to do with MIDI signals. Rather, the computer simply has an interface for a mouse and a PC keyboard. The signals produced by a mouse or a PC keyboard are not MIDI signals. There is simply no MIDI interface disclosed in Kew for MIDI signals.

The Examiner has cited some discussion in Kew regarding a “MIDI guitar style” and the generation of MIDI data as an intermediate step to the generation of sound. However, these citations merely reference either a name or the internal use of MIDI data to drive the CPU to generate sound. Such internal use of MIDI does not disclose any connection interface for receiving MIDI signals. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6 are not anticipated by or obvious in view of Kew.

The Examiner rejected claims 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. The Examiner stated that the phrase “dedicated” musical instrument is unclear and has no support in the specification. The Examiner has further rejected claims 7-12 under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kew.

The phrase “dedicated electronic musical instrument” refers to instruments whose function is to create music. That is, musical instruments played by performers. The use of the word “dedicated” is clear, because it means “given over to a particular purpose”, i.e. to create

music. See Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary (10th ed.). The entire specification is directed to instruments which are dedicated to the production of music, including the examples of different electronic musical instruments provided on page 21 of the specification. Accordingly, Applicant requests that the rejection under § 112, first and second paragraphs, be withdrawn.

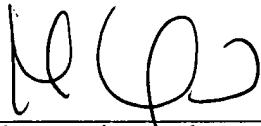
The phrase "dedicated electronic musical instrument" does not include a personal computer which has a myriad of functions other than operating as a musical instrument, such as word processing, financial management, e-mail communication, playing games, web searching, etc. Because Kew is directed to simulating a guitar performance through the use of a personal computer, it does not disclose a "dedicated electronic musical instrument". Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 7-12 are not anticipated by or obvious in view of Kew.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims in the present application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner feels that it would advance the prosecution of the application, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. 393032012500.

Respectfully submitted,



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